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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

Mr. Churchill has returned from his visit to President Roosevelt and received a great welcome in London. He congratulated the First Lord of the Admiralty on the excellent arrangements made for his safety, and Mr. A. V. Alexander, after expressing the pride of the Navy to have carried the Prime Minister on such an important journey, said that his safe return had taken a load off his mind.

The third Nazi offensive against Russia has met with some initial success. Nikoloyev, north-west of Odessa, has been evacuated by the Russians. They have also evacuated Kingisepp, south-west of Leningrad. Marshal Budenny has withdrawn his forces, avoiding encirclement, and his Ukranian army along the Dnieper will defend the main industrial region of the Ukraine. It is significant that President Roosevelt has stated that Russia has a real chance of holding out indefinitely against the Nazis.

There is increasing evidence that women in the Allied countries are to take greater part in war effort. In Britain compulsory powers will, it is stated, be used if necessary, for the purpose of mobilizing women for war work. All women up to 30 would be registered and older women would be required to come forward voluntarily to replace younger women transferred elsewhere. The occupations in which women can work are nursing and domestic work in hospitals, work on aircraft and tank manufacture, semi-skilled engineering, the land army, service canteens and ordnance factories. In Australia, the War Cabinet has authorized the establishment of the Women's Home Army with the object of releasing from certain military duties men whose work can be done by women.

A striking development, which is partly an answer to German pressure on Vichy to seek bases in North-west Africa and elsewhere, is the decision of the United States of America to hasten the delivery of aircraft to the British forces in Africa and the Middle East. The Pan American Service will run an air ferry system of planes. It is stated that one of three routes will be chosen. A ferry service for bombers may operate from Trinidad to Freetown in West Africa—a distance slightly over 3,000 miles. Shorter-range military planes may fly from somewhere in Brazil to Freetown which is only 1,600 miles. Another possible route is from Bathurst in British Gambia to Khartoum. The object is that there should be a line of communication as President Roosevelt stated, " between our country and strategic outposts in Africa."

Dr. Goebbels has paid an unconscious tribute to the effectiveness of the British Broadcasting Corporation's propaganda once again. He frankly says that those who continue to listen in to the B.B.C. deserve beheading and his reasoning is as follows: ' Some Germans say that they are strong-minded enough to listen to the British Broadcasting Corporation's lies and not be harmed by them. I imply that this is not true, as those who listen have not the means of checking and finding out whether or not the British Broadcasting Corporation is lying. Their lies get into the blood, making listeners weak and tired of carrying on, thus showing that the B.B.C. poison is beginning to work.'

MR. CHURCHILL'S RETURN

Mr. Churchill's return after his talks with President Roosevelt was triumphant. On his way back, he visited Iceland. It is stated that he discussed with Mr. Roosevelt problems of

supply to Great Britain and Russia, the situation in the Far East and the peace aims of the Allies. The personal contact established should be of great value in future, and acceleration and co-ordination of industrial effort should ensue so that Great Britain and those who are fighting against Nazism may get all the help they want. There is naturally great expectation that the talks will result in important developments in all fields of war activity. It has been officially stated that there was complete agreement between President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. The Joint Declaration as regards peace aims of the United States of America and Great Britain has been enthusiastically welcomed by the representatives of peoples subject to Nazi domination who are now in Great Britain, by the Free French, by the Dominions, India and the Colonies. It is also important to note that Mr. Attlee has followed up the statement by saying that the principles enunciated therein apply as much to the people of Asia and Africa as to those of Europe.

REPLY TO GERMAN PEACE OFFENSIVE

Of course, Germany has sought to belittle this great declaration, but there are certain points in regard to the joint statement which should be borne in mind. They do not, of course, constitute a peace offer. They are really a draft statement of peace aims which is quite a different thing, and they are a definite answer to the expected German peace offensive. Clause (2), for instance, provides that there should be no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. Clause (3) respects the rights of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live, while clause (8) provides for the disarmament of agggressor nations. It is absolutely clear that these three provisions should be fundamentally at variance with any peace terms which Germany can at any time offer the world. Clause (1) declares that America and Great Britain have no desire for aggrandisement, territorial or other. This has been rendered necessary because such isolationist elements as exist in America and certain groups of people in other parts of the world imagine that Great Britain is engaged in an imperialist war. Clauses (4) and (5) provide for free access to all countries, of raw materials, general economic collaboration and improved social standards and labour conditions. This expresses both British and American social idealism. Clauses (6) and (7) are especially dear to President Roosevelt whose insistence on four freedoms and the freedom of the seas are well known. The disarmament of aggressor nations and general disarmament are envisaged in clause (8) which postulates the renunciation of war as a means of settling international disputes on realistic as well as spiritual grounds.

COMPARISON WITH FOURTEEN POINTS

These eight points differ from Wilson's 14 points, in many respects. The eight points are simple and general. They deal only with general principles and broad issues. President Wilson's points constituted a unilateral declaration. But the eight points have been accepted by Mr. Roosevelt for the United States of America and Mr. Churchill for Great Britain. The 14 points were a statement of American opinion, not of Allied policy. There is reason to believe that Russia may accept this declaration. It is further noteworthy that while, in 1918, America was not united about Wilson's 14 points and a year later America refused to be a party to the terms settled in the Treaty of Versailles, the eight points have been welcomed by the vast mass of Americans.

THIS PICTURE AND THAT

It is necessary again to stress the fact that Hitler's ambition is to secure domination over the whole world, to make Germany politically and industrially supreme and to treat the other nations as dependent slave-states. The object of Germany's New Order is to guarantee to the greater Reich the maximum of economic security and to the German people, the maximum of consumption. This is to be ensured by making Europe one economic unit, not a number of States trading freely with each other. Compare the Roosevelt–Churchill declaration with Hitler's plans. In his scheme of world domination, Germany is to be industrially supreme, while the people of the other countries will be hewers of wood and drawers of water and they will devote themselves mainly to the supply of raw materials to the Reich. And what has the New Order already done? There are about 2 million foreigners in Germany working in war industries and these workers belong to countries under German domination. There has been out and out confiscation of properties in the occupied countries. Sometimes properties are purchased at a very low price. Businesses have been purposely driven into bankruptcy or their shares have been ruthlessly reduced in price. In the Reich alone, the total seizure of property is estimated at 2½ to 5 millard Rm. The value of confiscated property in Poland alone is placed at 600 millions. It is estimated that there has been a gross contribution to the Reich of 1,500 million pounds, as a result of the occupation of other countries. At a modest estimate it is stated by an observer that "it would not be rash to say that (quite apart from confiscations of land, capital and stocks of goods which cannot be repeated), between a quarter and a sixth of the war effort being made and to be made against the Allies by Germany is probably the result of her conquests in the last three years and her current exploitation of those conquests."

AID AND LOAN TO RUSSIA

An event of the week which is of great significance is the invitation extended by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill to M. Stalin to hold a Three-Power Conference in Moscow in order to discuss the allocation of war supplies to Russia. This is the direct result of the report by Mr. Harry Hopkins after his return from Moscow. According to the official invitation, the conference will discuss the apportionment of the joint resources of the three countries. This is specially important because " there is need for a long term policy as there is still a long and hard path to be traversed before there can be complete victory without which all the efforts and sacrifices will be wasted." The joint invitation to Russia significantly added that before the war was over there might be further fighting in other countries. M. Stalin has accepted this suggestion and it is expected that the Moscow Conference will come off at a very early date. Another important development, which is also due to the Atlantic conference, is the conclusion of an Anglo-Soviet agreement under which Great Britain grants to the Union of Social Soviet Republics a credit of £10 millions for five years. When this credit is exhausted the two Governments will enter into negotiations for a further amount. Russia will get rubber, tin, wool, hides, jute, shell, ore and industrial diamonds, while Britain will secure hemp platinum and glycerine.

A further result of the talks is that measures are to be taken to make a survey of actual production needs and deliveries both in America and in Great Britain through 1943 as, in President Roosevelt's view, the war will continue through that year.

THAILAND

It seems as if there will after all be a showdown in the Pacific. The distinct facts of the situation are :

(i) Japan is sending reinforcements to the west of Indo-China which may be interpreted as a threat to Thailand ;

(ii) the war of nerves is going on ;

(iii) the Japanese radio is still harping on the subject of 'encirclement' of Japan by Great Britain and America ; and

(iv) there is Japanese infiltration into Thailand.

It has been denied by Thailand that Japan has made any demands on her or sent any ultimatum. This denial has to be taken against the fact that it is well-known that Japan is resorting to the familiar totalitarian tactics of alleging increased Allied influence in Thailand.

However, British authorities have made it perfectly clear that England has not presented any demands to Thailand, a declaration which, it should be emphasized, has been welcomed in Thailand itself. Some Japanese spokesmen have, however, been less discreet than others. They have stated that there is now the calm before the storm, provoking the reply that Thais would fight to the last against any aggressor. Thailand's attitude has visibly stiffened " as she no longer feels her position to be one of hopeless isolation " and the Thais have not failed to notice that anti-Axis countries have shown appreciation of their difficulties and desire to help them. Though the threat to Thailand remains, there are also indications that Japan is preparing for an ultimate southward drive from Indo-China. It has been stated by Japanese spokesmen that Japan cannot be indifferent to the sending of American reinforcements to Vladivostock. Amidst all this confusion one fact emerges very clearly and that is that there is a perfect understanding between America, Britain, China and Dutch East Indies, that Malaya is fully prepared, that Singapore is so strong that it cannot be molested by any foreign power and that Australia is getting busy. A significant statement has been made by President Quezon of the Philippines : He said " Our country is a democracy, we believe in the democratic way of life and therefore go with America in life or death." Speaking of independence he said, " If as a result of the war small nations are placed at the mercy of big nations, the Filipinos might as well bid good-bye to independence."

TURKEY

Reports of enemy troop concentrations on the frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey have naturally caused speculation regarding Germany's next move in the Balkans, but Turkey will not yield any concessions to Germany. One point about the Russo-British declaration to Turkey is that Turkey cannot hereafter remain in any doubt about Russia's attitude. It may be remembered that in the spring Russia undertook " not to attack " Turkey if she was attacked. Now, jointly with Great Britain, Russia has undertaken to " assist " Turkey if she is attacked by a European Power. Both Powers have confirmed their fidelity to the Montreux Convention which gives Turkey complete control of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus in time of war and drastically limits the number of foreign warships which may pass through in peace time. This declaration has been welcomed in Turkey which remains absolutely friendly to Great Britain. *The Times'* Ankara Correspondent says that Turkish reaction to the Anglo-Russian declaration is one of restrained pleasure. This is understandable. There is an apprehension that the declaration might be purposely misinterpreted by Germany. Turkish opinion,

(Continued on page 5)

STERN FIGHTING IN RUSSIA

GERMANY'S COSTLY ADVANCE

The third great German offensive in Russia has now taken shape in a drive through the southern Ukraine towards Odessa. Fighting continues in the Baltic region where the Germans have made some progress in the Estonian sector. Here the German forces advancing on both sides of Lake Peipus on the Estonian border joined up in the Narva "neck"—a 30-mile wide strip of land separating the lake from the Baltic. The Soviet Army of the North under Marshal Voroshilov has evacuated the town of Kingisepp on the west bank of the Luga river, some 70 miles south-west of Leningrad, and is reported to be falling back on the outer defences of Leningrad, just inside the old Soviet frontier which the Nazis have only now crossed after eight weeks of war. Kingisepp is on the railway from Tallinn, the Estonian capital, about 15 miles east of Narva.

Fighting also rages in the central region around Smolensk, which the Russians recently evacuated after literally razing it to the ground and rendering it useless for occupation by the Germans. Marshal Timoshenko, who commands the Russian Army of the Centre, is bitterly contesting every inch of ground with the enemy who has had to suffer colossal losses. But it is in the south, in the Ukraine where Marshal Budenny is leading the Russian Army of the South, that the fiercest fighting has just taken place. Here the Germans byepassed the Russian forces at Belaya-Tsekov by means of a feint against Korosten and drove south-eastwards towards Odessa, the Russian port on the Black Sea. Fighting was reported during the weekend in the Uman district and the Germans captured Nikolayev, a port on the Dnieper river east of Odessa, and Krivoirog, an iron-ore centre in the "elbow" of the Dnieper. But despite their claim first to have encircled Odessa and then to have captured 60,000 prisoners in an attack on the port, it is an undoubted fact that the Russians hold Odessa and are determined to defend it.

What has happened is that the Germans, unable to cross the Dniester, the Bug or the Dnieper river—three formidable lines of Russian defence—suddenly wheeled south-east and advanced parallel to the river courses towards the sea. And Marshal Budenny, the great commander that he is, wisely withdrew the main body of his troops to the Dnieper where he can offer a flank-threat to the lengthening German line and, if necessary, make a decisive stand and break the German offensive before it threatens the industrial region of the Ukraine which lies east of the river Dnieper in the basin of the Don river. Before the Germans reach it, they would have to cross the formidable obstacle of the Dnieper; and the main Russian army bars their way. A feature of this fighting has been the reappearance of Russian cavalry divisions, who deal with the masses of the German infantry after the mechanized forces have passed on.

The Germans have desisted from costly efforts to smash through which were features of the first six weeks fighting. At Kiev, too, conditions are more or less static and the two arms of great pincer movement have been stationary at Korosten in the north-west and Byelaya-Tserkov in the south-east. It is too early to say whether the Germans will try to force the Dnieper with a view to threatening the Don coal basin. Any such movement with large Russian forces still undefeated on the left flank of the advance would be a venturesome proposition. It is more likely that Hitler will fling in his sorely tried troops against the central sector in the hope that they will have been weakened by despatch of help to Marshal Budenny. Already it is reported that while the German offensive in the Ukraine shows signs of slowing down in the face of the terrible battering administered by the Russians, the latter have launched a counter-attack in some places.

A SECOND TOBRUK

And it must not be forgotten that Odessa is not likely to fall easily. Here evidently the Russians seem determined to make a second Tobruk—in the same way as the gallant British and Indian garrison in the Libyan coastal town has not only been defying all the efforts of the enemy to storm the defences but actually acting as a thorn on the enemy's side and harrying his movements on land and sea. For the Russians well know that, though Odessa is not their chief naval base—which is Sebastopol in the Crimean Peninsula—and its loss would not cripple their Black Sea Fleet, its possession by the Germans would make easier a parachute or seaborne attack on the Crimea. Odessa, with its deep natural harbour, is built on the steep slopes of a hill, which runs like a sauce-brim around the town's outskirts and falls again steeply to the wide cornfields and forests of the Ukrainian hinterland. On this natural bulwark the Russians have built a system of modern fortifications comparable with anything yet constructed by any of the world's military engineers. It is likely to hold out a long time even against the largest forces. Its shore batteries can take care of any possible Nazi seaborne landing, and its "flank" (anti-aircraft) defences are also capable of giving a good account of themselves. The Russian navy's overwhelming superiority in the Black Sea is perfectly capable of supplying Odessa while Soviet fighter squadrons from the Crimean airfields and Odessa's own airport are able to ensure supplies going through without unreasonable loss. Civilians were evacuated from Odessa several weeks ago and replaced by storm troop regiments recruited from the tough, warlike Ukrainian peasants.

At sea, indeed, the Russians continue to hold their own; they have destroyed 15 German submarines, a dozen destroyers or torpedo boats and about 40 transports. And in the air they are taking heavy toll of German raiders attempting to attack Moscow and have inaugurated a series of raids of their own on Berlin and other German cities as well as on the cities in Rumania, Hungary and Finland. Germany now faces the prospect of a two-front air war in the coming winter.

On August 8 the Russians published the German losses and their own during the first six weeks of the war. Describing the German claims in this respect as fantastic, the Russians gave the true position as follows: The Germans have lost 1,500,000 men (killed, wounded or prisoners), over 6,000 tanks, 8,000 guns and 6,000 aircraft. In the same six weeks the Russians have lost 600,000 men, 5,000 tanks, 7,000 guns and 4,000 aircraft. The thoroughness of the Russian "scorched earth" policy has again been attested by the Germans themselves, who have described the complete devastation in which they found Smolensk, the heat of burning houses and factories being so great that the first German troops who entered had to retire again. The usually well-informed American commentator in Ankara, Martin Agronsky, summed up the situation on August 10 by saying "The Red Army is hurting the Nazi military machine badly, perhaps vitally. The Germans may still win in Russia but victory is no longer thought certain and there is every reason to believe that it may never be conclusive." That Russia is determined not to let anything valuable to pass into the enemy's hands is evident in the report—which is, however, unconfirmed—that they have blown up the dam at Dniepropetrovsk, the industrial heart of the Ukraine and one of the biggest power stations in the world.

And President Roosevelt has now expressed his confident belief that the Russians can hold out indefinitely against the Nazis. Indeed, he as well as Mr. Churchill, has backed up this belief by the invitation that they have issued to M. Stalin to hold a three-power conference in Moscow to draw up what is evidently a long-term programme to smash the Nazi war machine. And Britain has just entered into an agreement with Russia which will enable the latter speedily to repair the deficiencies in her defence in time for the campaign next spring. Meanwhile the Germans face the prospect of a long winter in Russia.

NOTES OF THE WEEK—*(Continued from Page 3)*

therefore, hesitates to take the declaration as a guarantee given to Turkey, because Turkey is chary of entering into or accepting any guarantees which are unilateral. The Anglo-Russian declaration is spontaneous and is not due to any move on the part of Turkey and it is emphasized in Turkey that she does not consider herself threatened by any danger of attack. Turkey wants to avoid war while remaining firm in her friendship with Great Britain.

IRAN

A fresh *Demarche* has been presented by Great Britain and Russia, drawing the attention of the Iran Government to the concern felt by the two Governments in regard to the excessively large number of Germans in Iran. The two Governments have further made strict representations that effective measures should be taken to remove the Germans from Iran. The report that Germany has demanded air bases in that country and fuel supplies for the planes using them has not been confirmed. There can be no doubt that Great Britain and Russia feel that this infiltration should be stopped because of the danger to their interests in Iran and in other countries. Similarly in her own interests also, Iran should stop this incursion. It is to be hoped that the Government of Iran, which has not yet replied, would realize the gravity of the situation and act in a proper manner. She knows the plight of countries which have allowed fifth columnists and German "tourists" to enter them and prepare the ground for eventual subjugation. She should also be aware of the efficient manner in which South American republics are avoiding this danger of German infiltration.

THE NEW ORDER OF HITLER

WHAT IT PORTENDS

In view of the joint Roosevelt-Churchill declaration about the kind of peace which the United States and Great Britain envisage after the war is won, the following observation of Mr. F. A. Voigt summarized from an article appearing in the *Listner* will be read with interest.

If there is one thing we realize today, it is this; when the war is over our world will not be the same as it was when the war began. Our world has been changed much in our own time by several revolutions. The mightiest of these revolutions is, I think, the most recent one, the German revolution of 1933, the National Socialist revolution as it is called, which destroyed the transitional democratic order in Germany and established that new German order which now extends from the Arctic to the Aegean, and from Finisterre to the Black Sea. The nucleus of this vast order, of this prodigious revolutionary empire which the Germans have created by violence, is Germany herself, the Third Reich, as it calls itself, a term that was first used by Moeller van den Bruck, a precursor of National Socialism, who committed suicide several years before it was established. The First Reich was the Holy Roman Empire; the Second was the Empire of the Hohenzollerns; the Third is the Germany of today and the 'new order' she has erected under the leadership of Hitler.

Defeat of the Allies will not merely mean loss of territory and of wealth; it will mean the loss of civilized happiness. It will bring upon us 'the abomination that maketh desolate', precisely because the enemy's purpose is not merely plunder and destruction, but spiritual domination as well. He is determined to break, and to break for ever, the spirit of the nations he has conquered. This new order is not merely political and economic; it is incompatible with independence of any sort, with individual, no less than national, independence. It means the end of human personality wherever it prevails.

The German new order is further not entirely new. The present war is but the resumption of last. The armistice of 1918 was but a suspension of hostilities. Germany has never accepted this frustration. She has never admitted defeat. She is going on now where she left off last time.

If we examine her new order even in its purely economic aspects, we shall see that it is not as new as it is generally believed to be. If we examine the Treaty of Bucharest which the Germans imposed on the defeated Rumanians in the last war, we shall find the substance of the economic domination which the Germans have established in Rumania now. If we go back to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, we shall find the substance of the economic domination of Russia and more particularly, of the Ukraine, which Hitler proposed afresh in his book Mein Kampf, a domination which he will, if the signs are not deceptive, try to erect in the near future.

There is one particularly good reason why we must bear in mind this point, that the new order is not entirely new and that the Second World War does not stand by itself but is the resumption, by the Germans of the First World War. I mean this: that what has happened twice can happen a third time, if it is allowed to happen, and that for nothing in the world must it be allowed to happen a third time. The lesson driven home by this point, by the very nature of the new order and of its antecedents, is expressed in two simple words, 'Never again.' The German new order has got to be destroyed for ever, and a very different order has to be put in its place. Now, as I have tried to explain, this German new order is an extension as well as a resumption—and a development—of the order Germany erected in the last war. Every war map indicates the vastness of its extent, a vastness that may, in the near future grow vaster still. It is conterminous with the area held by German troops, just as the new order erected by Napoleon, was conterminous with the area held by his troops. In economic terms it means the complete subjection of trade, industry, and banking in that immense area to German needs. (Its specifically economic character has been outlined in one of the admirable 'Oxford Pamphlets' under the title of 'Germany's New Order', by Dr. Duncan Wilson). But this order is not merely a war-measure. The Germans are determined to make it last. In erecting it, they are convinced that they are laying the foundations of a permanent European order in which they will be the sole beneficiaries and masters. They identify the Europe of the future, indeed the world of the future, with their new order.

WHO INVENTED THE TANK?

I read with interest, says a correspondent in a British newspaper, the claim of Mr. H. G. Wells to have invented and described the tank in 1903. Surely there is a difference between an imaginative conception and an invention. One could hardly say that Jules Verne invented aeroplanes and submarines, though he imagined and described them. Has Mr. Wells, for instance, really invented the means of interstellar communication which he imagines and describes in *War of the Worlds*? And has he really invented a 'time-machine?' Is not the position that Mr. Wells imagined a steam tank in 1903, and Major-General E. Swinton invented the tank in 1915?

RIDING THE STORM

A SURVEY

The human spirit is naturally buoyant. It can survive the threat of disaster. It can even forget it when the wind veers to a better quarter. The storm has not yet blown itself out. Its bellowings, indeed, are heard nearer to India than before, and it is still capable of terrible destruction. Yet already the mere miracle of survival may tempt us to forget that a miracle it is, a miracle achieved, under God, by unremitting labour here and elsewhere, by acts of collective and individual heroism far from our shores, and by the slow but at last inexorable logic of a just and necessary cause.

To glance back now at the peril and the glory of a year ago will remind us not only of the deadly menace that was so brilliantly thwarted, but of the stages by which that menace was permitted to grow and approach; not only of the great tasks behind us, but of those that remain and of the means by which they must be carried through.

August the 15th, 1940, was the date on which Hitler had expected to dictate, from London itself, his terms of "peace" to a cowed and broken Europe—terms which would have been so formed as to make impossible any effective resistance to the extension of his power by stages over the whole world. He had the Channel Ports, which British strategy had traditionally striven to keep out of unfriendly hands. He had bases in Norway and Denmark and Holland also, and on the French Atlantic coast. In Napoleon's plans Boulogne had been a pistol pointed at the heart of England. Here was a whole armoury, its lethal power multiplied beyond Napoleon's dreams by the development of the new air arm in which Germany was ahead of British production, not by months but by years.

That was how matters looked from the white cliffs of Dover. But that was not all. The world's greatest and most ruthless war machine had now the spoils of highly industrialized subject states to draw upon, while eastwards the Balkan states and Russia seemed one vast storehouse laid open to the aggressors by diplomatic offensives. In the Mediterranean, jugular vein of her world-wide system, Britain had lost a trusted ally in France, and gained in Italy a formidable enemy, her strength still untested, who at that critical moment had mounted from Libya and East Africa a multiple offensive against vital but thinly held objectives. Athwart the Middle Sea Italy's commanding position made Malta's chances of survival seem small, while her new battle-fleet and her shoals of submarines reversed the whole balance of naval power. In both hemispheres the same tremendous question was asked: "How can Britain stand—and if Britain falls?" In Tokyo a flutter of excitement at the brightening prospects of agression spread its seismic disturbance to Indo-China and the Burma Road. In New York there was anxiety, admiration for Britain, scepticism, sympathy, indifference—all these by turns, but as yet no united faith that what was worth saving could indeed be saved. In Washington there were far-reaching plans, sagacious counsel, projects of high statesmanship—but Roosevelt, great democrat that he is, was waiting for his people.

Yet Britain stood. On that very fifteenth of August her young fighter pilots and her anti-aircraft gunners destroyed one hundred and eighty of the marauding vultures. It was only the beginning of the titanic test, a portent of valiant survival under an appalling menace. Months later the Prime Minister who had stood up in Parliament as on the quarter-deck of an old ship of the line crying defiantly "Let it rage, let it roar, we shall come through"—could say in simple candour to his people and the world: "See how far we have travelled."

STATISTICS OF WAR

GERMAN PROPAGANDA LIES EXPOSED

Official figures placed before Parliament by Captain Margesson (War Secretary) on August 6 show that the total number of British and Empire troops evacuated from Greece was 44,865.

On May 1, before any accurate check of the numbers could be made, the C.-in-C. Mediterranean Fleet informed Mr. Churchill that approximately 45,000 men had reached safely.

Likewise the number evacuated from Crete, now revealed as 14,580, was immediately estimated as 15,000. The closeness of these figures is a remarkable testimony to British accuracy.

The War Secretary's figures further show that while 82·6 per cent of the Australian soldiers and 86·3 per cent of the New Zealanders were safely evacuated from Greece, the percentage of British troops evacuated was 68·2.

Thus the many and flagrant German declarations that the British were "fighting to the last Australian and New Zealander" are exposed for the ignoble lies they were.

A BALANCE SHEET—1940-41

I. THE AXIS

1940

Hitler breaks out.

(a) *Successes.*

1. Hitler quickly over-runs Poland, but the Allies do not see the danger. Taking advantage of their complacency, Hitler suddenly breaks out. Result—

Norway, Low Countries and France overrun—Britain in grave danger.

2. Italy comes in to share spoils, and Britain evacuates British Somaliland.

3. Russia—neutral, but pro-German. Other neutrals pro-German as they see influence of power politics.

4. Rumania has joined the Axis camp, giving Germany most of her oil. Germany drawing supplies from neutrals in Balkans.

5. Blockade of Britain declared following advantages Germany gained from possession of the French ports.

1941

Sea power tells.

(a) *Pitfalls.*

1. Grave danger to Britain replaced by danger to Germany and her occupied countries from British invasion, and her fear of a war on two fronts. The occupied countries, having been looted, are now economic and military burdens to Germany and a source of constant anxiety.

In all Allied countries determination has replaced complacency.

2. Italy has become an occupied country. In Africa she has lost most of her Empire and a large part of her army and air force, in the Mediterranean a large part of her navy and in Albania, against the gallant Greeks, her last vestige of honour. Italy, through the ambitions of Mussolini, has incurred the contempt of the world and has forfeited the results of years of progress. Today she stands exposed to the threat of increasing British power in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

3. To-day Germany, hemmed in by British sea-power, has thrown her vast military machine against the huge, well equipped armies of Russia. What was a serious leak in the British blockade may well turn out to be the graveyard of Hitler, the Nazi party, the flower of the German manhood and the senseless ambitions for which the nation has chosen to fight.

Neutrals have regained faith in an ultimate British victory. Greece and Yugoslavia fought and will rise again. Turkey, constantly menaced, remains true to her pact with Britain. The Republics of South America have dealt with the Nazi threat from their countries.

4. Rumania with a third of her territory lost to her, and her people starved through the export of food to Germany, has now been drawn into the Nazi war. Her oilfields are bombed by Russia and her national wealth has gone.

Through her campaign in the Balkans and the continued opposition from Greece and Yugoslavia, Germany has lost most of her Balkan supplies. The granary of the Balkans has been turned into a battlefield.

5. The Battle of the Atlantic has been fought and is now being won. Britain's sea routes have never been closed. In the Atlantic Germany has lost most of her U-boats, her finest battleships. What is left of her surface warships have been driven to the shelter of ports.

I. THE AXIS

1940

6. Blitzkreig tactics have taken the world by surprise. German army seems invincible.

7. Germany well ahead in all types of war production.

8. Hitler's Fifth Column tactics have proved a decisive weapon.

(b) *The Future.*

1. German nation convinced of success before winter.

2. Air power seems to have neutralised Britain's great defence—sea power.

3. Power politics and German Panzer divisions seem invincible.

But :—

4. Britain maintains a blockade of Continent.

5. Hitler's peace offer to Britain is spurned.

6. The Luftwaffe has not cleared the way to invasion of Britain, and there is no Fifth Column in Britain.

7. Invasion plans postponed until September 16th.

1941

6. The Blitzkreig has met its match in Russia, where for the first time the Germans have not had the advantage of superior numbers and equipment. Here too, Goebbels' carefully fostered myth of the invincibility of the German soldier has been finally exploded.

7. Germany, despite the use of the armament industries of the occupied countries, has reached her peak in production. While British production still climbs to its peak and is assisted by an increasing stream of deliveries from the United States of America and the countries of the Empire, Nazi reserves are being rapidly depleted in the Russo-German war.

8. The Fifth Column weapon is now blunted, and failed the Nazis badly where they placed great faith in it—in the Ukraine. As the Allied threat to Germany increases, and the occupied countries realize the certainty of an Allied victory, this venomous weapon is likely to react against those who have used it so ruthlessly.

(b) *What has transpired.*

1. The Germans are still convinced of success and their certainty is now "Peace before winter". But it is the hope of despair; no German can say how it can come about.

2. Air power has restricted the effect of sea power in narrow waters, but cannot neutralize it. In the oceans sea power retains its supremacy.

3. Russia has discounted these beliefs, so sedulously fostered by German propaganda.

While :—

4. The blockade continues and tightens as more warships are added to the Royal Navy and aeroplanes to the Coastal Command. In attacking Russia, Hitler was looking to fresh areas to loot, and replenish his dwindling supplies—no longer obtainable from overseas markets.

5. Mr. Churchill has given Britain's final reply to any peace offers when, on June 22, he said :—"We shall never parley, we shall never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang."

6. The Luftwaffe has had no success against Britain except through indiscriminate bombing at night. Now it is on the defensive and the air front has moved from Britain to North-West France and Germany. No Fifth Columnist can operate in Britain.

7. Invasion plans have never materialised. The threat may still exist, but more important now is the British threat of an invasion of German-occupied territory.

I. THE AXIS

1940

8. Italy has proved a disappointment as the British Navy still controls the Mediterranean and British forces are intact in Egypt.

(c) *General Situation.*

Generally Germany planned a short war, and her plans have been successful except in the case of Britain. Nevertheless, the Axis has all the advantages, and it should be possible to over-run Britain by sheer weight of numbers and machines.

1941

8. Italy has proved a burden to Germany as she was to the Allies in the Great War. Empire Troops now occupy Italian Somaliland, Abyssinia, Eritrea and Syria.

(c) *General Situation.*

German short-term plans have failed. Britain has held out while arming herself. Italy has failed in the Mediterranean and Middle East. The Germans too, have failed in their drive to Suez. Now their armies are struggling on the Russian Front and they face what they dread most of all—the British blockade and a major war on two fronts.

II. BRITAIN

(a) *Britain alone.*

1. No European allies, and Channel ports occupied.

2. B.E.F. has escaped, but without arms. Nation only now aware of its imminent danger and only quarter armed.

3. Continent blockaded, but naval forces seriously deficient—Axis blockading Britain.

4. Invasion expected daily, but Royal Air Force have so far broken up all concentrations of barges.

5. Royal Air Force has established its superiority over the Luftwaffe in quality of men and machines, but is woefully outnumbered in both.

6. America willing to help, but not organized for war production.

(a) *Union is strength.*

1. Allied accessions—Free France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Russia, China—all are now united in the fight for freedom. The occupation of the Channel Ports has brought about the Battle of the Atlantic, which Germany is now starting to lose.

2. Britain has held out. The danger remains, but she will soon be fully armed. The danger which was serious in 1940, Britain can take in her stride in 1941, and still despatch troops to other theatres of war.

3. The blockade of the Continent is still maintained, and is now tighter than ever. Its effects in Germany are becoming daily more apparent. The Axis has never blockaded Britain; it has only sunk a portion of the goods coming to Britain. The fighting efficiency of the nation is increasing every day.

4. Invasion has never materialized as, through the constant watch of the Royal Air Force, the enemy has never been able to complete his preparations.

5. The Royal Air Force's superiority over Luftwaffe has been steadily maintained. Now the discrepancy in strength is being rapidly made up, and Germany herself is being subjected to sustained bombing, heavier than anything of which the Luftwaffe have been capable over England. The initiative, in fact, is now with the Royal Air Force.

6. America is now committed to all help to Britain short of war, while President Roosevelt and other leaders have stated their certainty of a British victory. Details of the active help received, are 50 destroyers, President Roosevelt's election, the Atlantic Patrol, and the despatch of troops to Iceland. The great fear of the German nation is now the increasing material support which America is sending to Britain, and the possibility that America herself will enter the war. American industry is now organized for war production.

II. BRITAIN

1940

(b) *The Future.*

1. If Britain can hold out till the Autumn, Hitler's great chance will have gone.

2. People of Britain united as never before, and determined to resist to the end.

3. Entire nation inspired by the heroic exploits of the Royal Air Force.

4. The Empire rapidly mobilizing.

5. Britain still controls the seas, particularly the Mediterranean.

6. Egypt held, and the Italians preparing a multiple offensive in Africa. Loss of British Somaliland regarded as temporary.

(c) *General Situation.*

Judged by German successes in the Low Countries and France, the outlook for Britain seemed bleak. The Nation, however, was confident of its ability to hold out and already the effects of sea power were beginning to hinder Axis plans.

1941

(b) *What has transpired.*

1. Hitler's great chance has gone. He must now face a long war.

2. The people of Britain and of the Empire are united in one great determined effort to kill Nazism and restore freedom to the world. London, always the economic centre of the world, is now the centre of the world-wide fight for freedom.

3. These exploits now inspire all the free peoples of the world. The Royal Air Force is fighting in many theatres of war, and wherever it fights its quality in men and material tells. This has been particularly the case in operations in Africa.

4. The Empire is still mobilizing, and will be fully mobilized by the Spring of 1942.

5. British control of the seas has only been seriously disputed in the Atlantic. There has never been any doubt that despite all the enemy's efforts, this control is supreme.

6. The British offensive in Africa took the Italians by surprise. Despite their inferiority in numbers of one to three; the British forces have overrun Eritrea, Abyssinia, and regained British Somaliland. They have the initiative on the Egyptian frontier. By British action in Syria and the rapid disposal of the revolt in Iraq, the security of India and the Middle East was assured, while Britain's boundaries now adjoin those of her ally Turkey. The British navy is in control throughout the Mediterranean despite the Italian navy and the Axis occupation of the Baltic and Crete.

(c) *General Situation.*

There are critical days ahead in Russia, and the vast Nazi war machine, although now suffering continual blows, is still intact. There will be no peace in Europe until this machine has been destroyed. But British sea power imprisons Hitler in Europe, while the Royal Air Force bombers German towns and industries. Britain still has no place for complacency, but armed as she is to-day, and with Allies fighting in the cause of Freedom, the outlook is no longer bleak; a degree of optimism is even justified.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 4—10, 1941

WHERE TO DRAW THE STALIN LINE

" Declarations made by Moscow about the unbreakable wall of the Stalin Line are forgotten now. Cyril Lakin in a B.B.C. talk declared the Stalin Line comparable to the technical wonders of the Maginot Line."—(*German news in English, August* 10).

The first mention of the Stalin Line in any Russian report occurred on Aug. 9. As for the B.B.C. commentators, Cyril Lakin has been in agreement with his colleagues, Major Hastings (who said on July 10 that the Russians " are not so fatuous as to tie themselves up to the rigid defence of a 1,400 mile inferior Maginot "), and J. B. McGeachy (who said on June 23 and repeated on Aug. 9 that " there is no Stalin Line comparable with France's Maginot Line").

It is the Nazis themselves who attempted to picture the Stalin as a towering obstacle. On July 7 they called it a " modern fortification system, resembling the Siegfried Line " (which Hitler has himself described as " the most gigantic fortress in the world "). On July 13th they claimed to have broken it at decisive points, thus " laying open the roads to Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev."

" Naya Puth, a young Baltic girl, has said: ' I think it is a duty of every civilised man to oppose Bolshevism and save the world from the terrors of Bolshevism '."—(*German news in English, Aug.* 10).

The *Schwarze Korps*, official organ of the Nazi S.S. guards, is more candid. " It is absolutely wrong," it wrote on July 17, " to assume that Germany is fighting Russia to save Europe from Bolshevism. We are not fighting to save culture, or civilization, or democracy, but simply to save Germany."

THE GOEBBELS' GAG

" The Norwegian newspaper *North Telegram Bureau*, commenting on the special communiqués published yesterday, states that the successes attained in the East are of extensive historical importance (*German news in English, Aug.* 7).

Instructions (captured at Lofoten) from the Press Division of the Reichscommissar in Norway are sufficient comment:

" The foremost task of the Press is to be an instrument of political leadership . . . It must consequently publish only such news as is designed to further the policy of the German Reich."

" Editors must give full support to measures taken in Norwegian domestic politics."

" Control of the newspapers must also extend to advertising space."

" The confidence of American correspondents has been grossly misused for British propaganda purposes. . . They have made a laughing stock of themselves. . . In Germany such methods of meddling or misleading foreign journalists are unnecessary. Twice a day they are informed about the situation on various fronts. They have full liberty of movement in Germany, and can enjoy regular tours through the occupied territory."—(*German news in English, Aug.* 6.)

The distinguished American journalist Quentin Reynolds observes: " Most of us have worked in Germany and France. After the rigid tyrannical censorship of these countries, the British Censorship is very mild. We can express any opinions and criticise anyone we want."

HITLER AND ISLAM

"The Mufti of Zagreb states that the Muslim subjects of Herzegovina and Bosnia are happy at their deliverance. In helping the Croats to form a national home, the Germans have proved to the world that Germany really wants to liberate the small states."—*(German news in Hindustani, Aug. 8.)*

The Mussalmans of Croatia saw for themselves what Hilter's "liberation" amounts to. "When Hitler let loose his Huns in Yugoslavia," says Mahmoud-el-Hashimi in the Egyptian paper *Wafd-el-Masri*, "Muslim towns and villages were among the worst sufferers. Sarajevo's beautiful mosque was razed to the ground. To-day all is sullen and silent in that Muslim town."

"The British domination of Syria is a serious drain on the economic resources of the country. The British forces in the country are exploiting its wealth to the extreme."—*(German news in Persian and Arabic, Aug. 8.)*

The Egyptian paper *Al Shoola* compares the British entry into Syria, bringing food and supplies for the inhabitants, with the arrival of the German Minister, Grobba, who left Iraq with two sacks of gold.

"Have our respected listeners marked the extent of British tyranny and high-handedness in Iraq? This is apparently to crush the Arab spirit of freedom."—*(German news in Persian and Arabic.)*

Have our respected listeners marked that Britain is not ruling in Iraq at all and that the Madfai Government exercises full authority in every sphere of administration? Indian troops passing through Iraq see daily evidence of Iraqi independence which gives the lie to all such Nazi allegations.

SWASTIKA OVER SOUTH AMERICA

NAZI DESIGNS REVEALED

Prompt measures by several states of Central and South America to deal with Nazi attempts to destroy them from within have set an example to all countries threatened by Hitler's fifth column.

They have also caused the Berlin radio to break out in furious denunciations of the precautions taken and in protestations of German innocence.

Established facts prove the guilt of the Nazis. In the following passages they are condemned out of their own mouths:—

"If ever there was a place where democracy is senseless and suicidal, it is in South America. . . . We must send our people out to them. . . . Audacious youth is what we want"—*Hitler in conversation with an S.A. leader*, 1933, *reported by his former colleague Dr. Rauschnigg, who was present.*—*("Hitler Speaks," by Hermann Rauschnigg.)*

"We shall create a new Germany in Brazil. . . . We shall not land troops like William the Conqueror and gain Brazil by the strength of arms. Our weapons are not visible ones."—*Ibid.*

"The Argentine and Bolivia are in the first line of interest."—*Ibid.*

"If we had Mexico we should solve all our difficulties. . . . With the treasure of Mexican soil Germany would be rich and great."—*Hitler to Dr. Rauschnigg in* 1934 *("Hitler Speaks," by Hermann Rauschnigg).*

"It must be strongly stigmatised that such idiot states should here have the same rights and the same voting powers as Germany and Italy. Just imagine it—Cuba, Uruguay, Bolivia—how should I know all their names These idiots of South Americans. . . . What sort or species of humanity have those fellows got, compared with cultured peoples like Germans and Italians? And that creatures like that should have equal rights!"—*Dr. Ley, Nazi Labour Leader, at the International Labour Conference of* 1933, *reported in "Das Neue Tagebuch," Paris*, 1933.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 12th August 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
August 6, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including attacks on aerodrome near Cherbourg ; escorted convoy off Dutch coast (1 merchantman sunk).	1 day fighter. 1 day bomber.	6 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Mannheim** ; **Frankfurt-am-Main** ; **Karlsruhe** ; docks at Calais.	1 night fighter. 8 night bombers.	1 night fighter.
	R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber raids on aerodrome in Norway ; shipping off Norwegian coast (supply ship sunk).		
	R.A.F. offensive night fighter patrols over N. France, including attacks on aerodromes.		
August 7, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on aerodrome near St. Omer ; docks and shipping at Gravelines.	10 day fighters.	7 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on armament factories at **Essen** ; railway yards and industrial targets at **Hamm** and **Dortmund** ; docks at Boulogne.	4 night bombers.	
	R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber attacks on shipping off Dutch coast (2 merchantmen hit) ; aerodromes and other targets in Denmark.		
	R.A.F. night bomber-and-fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.		
August 8, Friday.	(No reports of day light operations—bad weather.)		
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at **Kiel** and other objectives in N. W. Germany.	4 night bombers.	
	R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber attacks on two supply ships in Norwegian fjord north of Bergen.		
August 9, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France.	10 day fighters.	18 day fighters.
	(No reports of night operations—bad weather.)		
August 10, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including attacks on shipping off French coast (1 supply ship afire).	2 day bombers. 1 day fighter.	1 day fighter.
	(No reports of night operations—bad weather.)		
August 11, Monday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France including attacks on enemy shipping.	3 day fighters.	..
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Krefeld** and **Rheydt** (near Dusseldorf) ; **Munchen-Gladbach** ; other targets in W. Germany ; docks at Rotterdam.		
	R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France and Holland. **(Fourth night bomber raid on Berlin by Russian Air Force since August 7.)**	..	..

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
August 12, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on power station near Gosnay (Pas de Calais); railways near St. Omer.	12 day bombers. 8 day fighters.	3 day fighters.
	R.A.F. day bomber raids on Quadrath and Knapsack power stations in **Cologne**; docks at Emden; aerodrome at De Kooy.		
	R.A.F. bomber-and-fighter dusk raid on shipbuilding yards at Le Trait.	..	1 day fighter.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Berlin**; **Essen**; **Magdeburg**; **Hanover**; Cologne; Kiel; Bremen; Osnabruck; Stettin; Duisburg-Ruhrort; aerodromes in Holland; docks at Le Havre.	13 night bombers.	

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 12th August 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses
August 6	Nil.	2 night bombers.
August 7	Nil.	..
August 8	Nil.	1 day fighter.
August 9	Nil.	..
August 10	Nil.	..
August 11	Nil.	..
August 12	Nil.	..

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

15th Aug.—Over 300 bombers took part in heavy raids by the Royal Air Force on industrial targets and communications at Hanover, Brunswick, and Magdeburg.

Enemy air activity over Britain was slight but an unidentified plane over Dublin was fired on by ground defences.

16th Aug.—"Fortress" aircraft of the Royal Air Force bombed Brest while other planes carried out offensive sweeps over Northern France. A patrol vessel was bombed and set on fire off the coast of Holland. Nineteen enemy planes were shot down.

Single enemy aircraft dropped bombs in North-east Scotland.

17th Aug.—Cologne, Dusseldorf and Duisberg were heavily bombed by the Royal Air Force as also docks at Rotterdam and Ostend.

Slight damage was caused by German raiders in the Midlands area.

18th Aug.—Over a hundred Royal Air Force bombers raided Germany, the chief objectives being the port of Bremen and industrial districts of Duisberg. The town of Lille in Occupied France was also bombed.

The German Radio announced, after the Royal Air Force raid on Bremen, that the Admiral Reich Commissar of Bremen Harbour was killed at sea off that port.

German bombers raided Hull in north-east England.

19th Aug.—Cologne and Duisberg were bombed by the Royal Air Force as also the docks at Dunkirk. Three German patrol vessels were bombed and sunk off the Dutch coast.

Russian planes, operating from the Baltic, raided towns in northern Germany. Berlin was also attacked.

Enemy raids were on a small scale and confined to the east coast of Scotland.

20th Aug.—Kiel and other objectives in north-western Germany were attacked by the Royal Air Force, also an enemy aerodrome in Holland. Coastal shipping off Ostend and a railway yard at Hazebruck were attacked by fighter squadrons.

Only two casualties were caused in a German raid on a south-east coast town in England.

21st Aug.—British bomber and fighter aircraft attacked industrial targets and railway communications in Northern France and Holland. Several enemy fighters were destroyed and a supply ship sunk, also two E-boats.

Soviet planes raided Berlin and caused a number of fires.

A single enemy raider dropped a high-explosive bomb at an East Anglian town. There were no casualties.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

15th Aug.—The Corinth Canal was bombed and rendered unusable by Royal Air Force bombers. The aerodrome at Heraklion (Crete), the submarine base at Augusta (Sicily) the harbour at Syracuse and enemy military depots at Wolchefit (Abyssinia) were also bombed.

Enemy planes raided Cyprus twice, causing a few civilian casualties.

16th Aug.—The Fleet Air Arm made highly successful attacks on enemy ships in the Mediterranean. Two ships of 6,000 and 3,000 tons respectively in a convoy as well as an escorting destroyer were sunk. Two enemy ships were also sunk by a Netherlands submarine.

The Italian High Command admitted severe damage in a British air raid on Catania (Sicily).

17th Aug.—An Italian communiqué again admitted very heavy raids by the Royal Air Force on the Sicilian bases of Catania and Syracuse as well as Bardia, Derna and Benghazi in Libya.

18th Aug.—The Fleet Air Arm raided Syracuse and Cap Passaro while the South African Air Force bombed the last remaining enemy concentrations in Abyssinia.

Enemy bombing and British patrol activity were reported from Tobruk.

19th Aug.—Half of an enemy convoy—five large merchantships and a tanker, escorted by six destroyers—were sunk in the Mediterranean, beached or set on fire by the Fleet Air Arm.

The Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force bombed Tripoli, Benghazi and objectives in Abyssinia.

Three enemy bombers were shot down while attempting to raid Malta.

Field Marshal Smuts, on his return to South Africa from Egypt, expressed confidence in the successful outcome of the struggle in the Middle East.

20th Aug.—British and Empire Air Forces raided Tripoli and other Libyan bases.

21st Aug.—Enemy planes raided Cyprus and the Suez Canal area, causing a few civilian casualties.

It was reported that Vichy was negotiating a treaty with Germany by which military and naval bases in Africa as well as in France would be available to Germany.

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

15th Aug.—The Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration was warmly welcomed by the Dominion and Allied Governments.

16th Aug.—Lord Beaverbrook, British Minister of Supply, in a talk at New York stated that Britain had no need for United States man-power to win the war.

Mr. Stimson, United States War Secretary, as well as Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, warned their fellow-countrymen against German designs in South America.

President Roosevelt, on landing at Rockland (Maine) from his cruise, said that he and Mr. Churchill had reached complete agreement on all aspects of the war situation. He did not think that United States was any closer towards entering the conflict.

It was revealed that Mr. Churchill had handed over to President Roosevelt a letter from His Majesty the King and had taken a reply.

17th Aug.—President Roosevelt on his return to Washington conferred with Mr. Cordell Hull.

18th Aug.—President Roosevelt conferred with Mr. Cordell Hull for nearly two hours and a half. The President later called into consultation key-men in Congress connected with foreign affairs and was reported to have impressed on them that Russia could hold out indefinitely against the Nazis.

19th Aug.—Mr. Roosevelt announced that delivery of aircraft to the British forces in the Middle East would be speeded up by a "ferry" service to West Africa.

The President signed the Army Service Extension Bill.

Lord Beaverbrook conferred with Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Harry Hopkins (United States Lease and Lend Administrator) on the question of expediting American war supplies.

20th Aug.—The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Mackenzie King, arrived in Britain for discussions with the British Government.

Heavy United States shipments of aviation fuel to Russia were reported in a San Francisco message.

Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour, said that the Federation was 100 per cent behind President Roosevelt and that Labour had a vital stake in winning the war against the Dictators, viz., the defence of free Trade Unions.

A German twin-engined bomber was chased out by British fighters when it attempted to raid Reykjavik, Iceland's capital.

21st Aug.—President Roosevelt, in a message to Congress, reported on his meeting with Mr. Churchill and said that there would be no compromise with Nazism.

Mr. Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, stated that the United States was ready to lend money to Russia to finance war purchases.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

15th Aug.—While the Germans claimed to have encircled the Black Sea port of Odessa, the Russians reported stern resistance to the invader along the whole front from the White Sea to the Black Sea.

M. Stalin accepted the joint proposal put forward by Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, that high British and American representatives should meet him in Moscow to discuss the allocation of war supplies to Russia.

A Polish-Russian Military Agreement was signed in Moscow.

16th Aug.—Fighting intensified as the Soviet offered determined resistance to Hitler's all-out effort to force a decision in Russia before winter set in.

While a few Nazi air-raiders managed to reach Moscow, Soviet planes bombed Berlin and Stettin. Many fires and explosions were caused and all Soviet planes returned safe.

17th Aug.—While the Finns claimed the capture of Sorbavalla, north-east of Lake Ladoga, the Germans announced the capture of Nikolayev and Kirovograd in the Ukraine. But it was evident that Marshal Budenny had safely withdrawn his troops towards the Dnieper and also that the Nazi offensive was slowing down owing to fierce resistance by the Russians. Many German regiments were reported to have been annihilated.

An Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement was signed in Moscow, providing for supplies of considerable quantities of British goods to Russia as well as Soviet goods to the United Kingdom.

18th Aug.—On the northern front the Germans resumed their thrust towards Leningrad. In the south the Germans captured the iron-ore centre of Krivoirog, the Russians falling back to the Dnieper. Fierce fighting raged on the entire front and many German regiments were smashed up. The Russians not only broke up a raid on Moscow but also bombed Berlin and Constanza.

19th Aug.—The German High Command claimed to have occupied the entire region west of the Dnieper and to have captured or put

out of action several Russian warships and transport vessels in the Black Sea. The Russians evacuated the town of Kingisepp in the Leningrad sector but both Marshal Voroshilov in the north and Marshal Budenny in the south, while retreating in orderly fashion, exacted a bloody price from the enemy for his territorial advance.

20th Aug.—Stubborn fighting was reported in the directions of Novogorod and Gomel. The Germans attacked bridgeheads on the Dnieper.

21st Aug.—A German communiqué announced the occupation of Kherson at the mouth of the Dnieper. It was reported that the Russians had blown up the dam over the river at Dniepropetrovsk, releasing tons of swirling water to check the German advance.

Marshal Voroshilov made a dramatic appeal to the people to defend Leningrad to the last man.

Rumanian newspapers wrote significantly of "Transnistria" on the other side of the old frontier with Russia and of "deliverance" for Rumanian nationals in Russia.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, SYRIA, IRAN, ETC.

15th Aug.—A contingent of Allied officer-prisoners taken to France during the Syrian campaign was returned by the French authorities.

17th Aug.—While the Press in Teheran denied reports that certain foreign agents were hatching a plot against the Iranian Government, it was reported in London that the British and Soviet Governments had made a *demarche* to Iran, repeating their recommendation that effective measures should be taken forthwith to reduce the excessively large number of Germans in the country.

18th Aug.—Iraqi army officers, suspected of complicity in the Rashid Ali revolt, were placed on the retired list.

21st Aug.—H. M. the Shah called on the Iranian army to be ready for every sacrifice. He announced that the cadets passing out of the Military Academy at Teheran would not have their usual annual leave.

SHIPPING

15th Aug.—Colonel Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, answering a question whether the American Navy had been forced to do any shooting in patrolling the waters between the United States and Iceland, said "Not a shot has been fired, not an Axis flag sighted."

16th Aug.—Speaking at the launching ceremony of the first of 60 freighters for Britain, Rear-Admiral Land, Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, said that the aim of the United States was "Two ships every day for the next two years."

The German steamer *Nordeny* (3,667 tons) and the Italian steamer *Stilla* (4,272 tons) were intercepted by British patrols while carrying valuable war supplies.

19th Aug.—It was officially estimated that the total enemy tonnage lost (captured, sunk or scuttled) up to August 18, was 4,007,000, comprising German 2,321,000, Italian, 1,533,000, Finnish 34,000 and other ships useful to the enemy 1,19,000. The enemy had lost, since 6th June, 796,000 tons.

The Japanese Government decided to exercise state control of shipping.

The Admiralty announced that the British submarine Cachalot was overdue and must be considered lost. It was learnt that the entire crew had been rescued and were prisoners of war.

21st Aug.—It was revealed that the Atlantic was slowly but surely being cleared of German submarines and surface-raiders and that convoys were going to Britain in increasing numbers and in perfect safety. The United States Department of Agriculture announced the purchase of a huge quantity of food-stuffs to be transported to Britain.

THE FAR EAST

16th Aug.—It was disclosed that the Japanese Government had refused to grant clearence papers for the American liner *President Coolidge* if it sought to remove the hundred private citizens now in Japan in addition to American official personnel.

Japanese naval planes again bombed Chungking and other Chinese towns.

The British Minister to Thailand stated that His Majesty's Government had presented no demands of any kind whatsoever to the Thailand Government.

Mr. Cordell Hull declined to comment on the London report that as the result of the Churchill-Roosevelt conference, the United States was expected to become "the chief guardian of the Pacific."

17th Aug.—His Excellency Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, described as "a typical flight of fancy," the Japanese report that he had threatened Thailand with the use of force.

Japan opened new trade talks with the Netherlands East Indies to end the "freezing" war.

Mr. Frank Grady was appointed Special Economic Investigator for President Roosevelt in order to survey south-east Asia and report as to how raw materials from the Orient could be moved to the Democracies and out of the hands of the Axis powers.

18th Aug.—A second detachment of Japanese troops was reported to have embarked at Saigon.

The Thailand Minister in Tokyo interviewed the Japanese Foreign Minister.

The Batavia Radio denied the Japanese report that trade talks were proceeding between Japan and the Netherlands East Indies.

19th Aug.—A spokesman of the Japanese Information Board said that Japan could not remain indifferent to the supply of American war materials to Russia by way of Vladivostock.

An authoritative statement issued in London contradicted rumours of negotiations for a barter trade agreement between Great Britain and Japan.

Cabinet changes were announced in Thailand, Lieut.-Gen. Luang Prom Yothi being made Minister of Defence.

21st Aug.—It was announced that representives of Manchukuo and Mongolia would meet at Harbin on September 22, to sign a final frontier agreement.

VICHY

15th Aug.—General de Gaulle appointed General le Gentilhomme as Commander-in-Chief of the Free French forces in Africa and General de Larminat as Second in Command to General Catroux in Syria and the Lebanon.

16th Aug.—A New decree of the Vichy Government ordered every citizen of France to take the Oath of Allegiance to Marshal Petain and not to France.

Broadcasting from Beirut, General de Gaulle replied to Marshal Petain's plea for collaboration with the Axis and said that Free France would fight on for revenge, greatness and freedom.

A "T for Traitor" campaign was inaugurated by Free French broadcasters in order to enable the population of France to deal severely with Quislings and time-servers.

18th Aug.—Admiral Darlan arrived in Paris for a conversation with the German occupation authorities.

19th Aug.—Marshal Petain, appealing to the Council of State to give him their undivided support, said, "You are either for me or against me."

20th Aug.—The Vichy Ambassador to U.S.A. called on Mr. Cordell Hull "to relieve apprehensions regarding signs of closer collaboration between Vichy and the Nazis."

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

15th Aug.—The Polish Government in London decided to send an Ambassador to Moscow.

16th Aug.—The German authorities decreed that all Netherlands Provinces and Municipalities shall lose their autonomy and function under specially appointed officers.

19th Aug.—The Tass Agency reported a large uprising of Albanian nationalists which greatly alarmed the Italians.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

17th Aug.—The majority group in the Mexican Senate urged the restoration of diplomatic relations with Britain which had been suspended from May 1938 following the dispute over the expropriation of the British-owned oil fields by the Mexican Government.

The Mexican Government were reported to be proceeding with the immediate construction of a railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in order to safeguard against the possibility of the Panama Canal being rendered unusable by an enemy.

Slight changes were announced in the Eire Cabinet.

20th Aug.—Mr. Frank McDermott, Eire Senator, said it was essential for the future of Ireland that Britain should not be defeated and indicated that air and naval bases in Eire must be made available to the British.

An unconfirmed report stated that Von Thermann, German Ambassador to Argentina, had been replaced owing to "recent blunders."

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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